

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method embodied on a computer network for remotely evaluating a vehicular part, comprising:

receiving ~~obtaining~~, from a vehicular dealer, description information regarding said vehicular part in an electronic folder, said description information including information relating to a type of said vehicular part;

automatically routing ~~sending~~, from a central server, said electronic folder including said description information to an assessment center based on the information relating to the type of said vehicular part;

modifying, at a terminal at said assessment center, the electronic folder to include a grade for the vehicular part, the electronic folder once modified corresponding to an updated electronic folder;

receiving, from said assessment center, the updated electronic folder;

sending said updated electronic folder from said central server to said vehicular dealer;

displaying said grade, at said vehicular dealer; and

at said vehicular dealer, determining a disposition of said vehicular part based on said grade of said assessment, and automatically transmitting to an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) a notification of the disposition; and

at a remanufacturer, sorting the vehicular part according to the grade.

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising at least one of the steps of mining data and generating reports for a plurality of vehicular parts and their assessment.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said data and reports are in such a format as to be compatible with internal data management systems of a party receiving said data and reports.

6. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said disposition of said vehicular part comprises at least one of a discarding the vehicular part and determining a warranty settlement for said vehicular part based on said assessment.

7. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising at least one of the steps of mining data and generating reports for a plurality of vehicular parts and their assessment.

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said data and reports are in such a format as to be compatible with internal data management systems of a party receiving said data and reports.

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of sending said vehicular part to a third party for at least one of repair and recycling.

12. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising at least one of identifying and ordering missing materials required for a remanufacturing of said vehicular part based on said assessment.

13. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising automatically ordering said materials required for remanufacturing of said vehicular part.

14. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said vehicular dealer comprises an authorized representative of an original equipment manufacturer.

15. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said assessment center comprises at least one of an independent assessing center, an original equipment manufacturer, and a warranty processing center.

16. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing access to a party at a third location to said assessment.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said party at said third location accesses said assessment through an Internet web browser.

18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said party at said third location comprises an original equipment manufacturer.

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising producing data and reports for a plurality of vehicular parts and their assessment.

20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising providing said data and reports in such a format as to be compatible with internal data management systems of a party receiving said data and reports.

21. to 27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A data center used in a remote evaluation of a vehicular part, said data center comprising:

a computer server adapted to communicate remotely with a vehicular dealer and ~~an~~ one or more assessment centers, said computer server comprising:

input means adapted to receive ~~for receiving~~, from said vehicular dealer, said electronic folder including said description information regarding said vehicular part;

analyzing means adapted to analyze a content of said electronic folder and to determine an appropriate assessment center based on a type of said vehicular part;

output means adapted to route ~~for sending~~ said description information to said appropriate assessment center;

said input means adapted to receive ~~for receiving~~, from a terminal of said appropriate assessment center, a grade for the vehicular part, said

electronic folder having been modified at said terminal of said appropriate assessment center to include said grade; and

said output means adapted to route ~~for sending~~ said electronic folder, once modified to include said grade, to the vehicular dealer, where the grade will be used to determine the disposition of the vehicular part and, said output means being also adapted to route ~~sending~~ the electronic folder to a remanufacturer ~~at a remanufacturer~~ where the grade will be used for sorting the vehicular part.

29. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 28, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a server database for storing at least a portion of said description information in said electronic folder.

32. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 28, wherein said computer server is further adapted to communicate with a third location and said output means further sends said assessment to said third location.

33. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 28, wherein said computer server is adapted to determine the disposition based on said grade, and wherein the output means outputs the disposition, the disposition comprising at least one of a discarding of the vehicle part and a warranty settlement for said vehicular.

34. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 33, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a server database for storing at least a portion of said description information in said electronic folder.

37. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 33, wherein said computer server is further adapted to communicate with a third location and said output means further sends said assessment to said third location.

38. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising selecting an assessment center based on the description information.

39. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising printing a shipping label based on a destination identified in the determining of a disposition.

40. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising adding an event-driven status indicator to the electronic folder for tracking the progress of a claim concerning the vehicular part.

41. (Currently amended) A method embodied on a computer network for remotely evaluating a vehicular part, comprising:

- inputting, at a vehicular dealer, description information regarding the vehicular part in an electronic folder;

- analyzing a content of said electronic folder and selecting an assessment center based on a type of the vehicular part;

- sending the electronic folder including the description information to ~~an~~ the assessment center;

- receiving the electronic folder at the assessment center;

- at a terminal at the assessment center modifying the electronic folder to include a grade for the vehicular part;

- receiving the electronic folder at the vehicular dealer;

- displaying, at the vehicular dealer, said grade, disposing of the vehicular part based on the grade for the vehicular part, and automatically transmitting to an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) a notification of the disposition.

42. (previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 28, further comprising validating means for validating contents of said assessment based on a set of pre-defined rules.

43. (New) A system for a remote evaluation of a vehicular part over a communication network, said system comprising:

- a central server;

- a first terminal at a vehicular dealer, said first terminal being in a remote communication with said central server, and being adapted to create and send to said central server an electronic folder including description information regarding said vehicular part;

- a second terminal at one or more assessment centers, said second terminal being in a remote communication with said central server, and being adapted to receive said electronic folder, and update a content of said electronic folder to indicate a grade of said vehicular part;

- a third terminal at a remanufacturer, said third terminal being in a remote communication with said central server, and being adapted to receive said electronic folder and output a selected content of said electronic folder;

- wherein the central server is adapted to analyze the content of the electronic folder received from the first terminal, select an appropriate assessment center based on a type of the vehicular part, route said electronic folder to said appropriate assessment center, and, upon receipt of the updated electronic folder from said appropriate assessment center, route the updated electronic folder to said first terminal and said third terminal for determining a disposition of said vehicular part.